

of Pub. L. 108-170, set out as a note under section 7316 of this title.

#### § 7410. Additional pay authorities

The Secretary may authorize the Under Secretary for Health to pay advance payments, recruitment or relocation bonuses, and retention allowances to the personnel described in paragraph (1) of section 7401 of this title, or interview expenses to candidates for appointment as such personnel, in the same manner, and subject to the same limitations, as in the case of the authority provided under sections 5524a, 5706b, 5753, and 5754 of title 5.

(Added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, § 103(a)[(1)], May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 198; amended Pub. L. 102-405, title III, § 302(c)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1984.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-405 substituted “Under Secretary for Health” for “Chief Medical Director”.

#### § 7411. Full-time board-certified physicians and dentists: reimbursement of continuing professional education expenses

The Secretary shall reimburse any full-time board-certified physician or dentist appointed under section 7401(1) of this title for expenses incurred, up to \$1,000 per year, for continuing professional education.

(Added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, § 103(a)[(1)], May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 199.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 103(b) of Pub. L. 102-40 provided that: “Section 7411 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to expenses incurred for continuing professional education that is pursued after September 30, 1991.”

### SUBCHAPTER II—COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

#### § 7421. Personnel administration: in general

(a) Notwithstanding any law, Executive order, or regulation, the Secretary shall prescribe by regulation the hours and conditions of employment and leaves of absence of employees appointed under any provision of this chapter in positions in the Veterans Health Administration listed in subsection (b).

(b) Subsection (a) refers to the following positions:

- (1) Physicians.
- (2) Dentists.
- (3) Podiatrists.
- (4) Optometrists.
- (5) Registered nurses.
- (6) Physician assistants.
- (7) Expanded-duty dental auxiliaries.
- (8) Chiropractors.

(Added Pub. L. 102-40, title II, § 202, May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 200; amended Pub. L. 108-170, title III, § 302(g), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2058.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 4108(a) of this title prior to the repeal of that section as part of the complete revision of chapter 73 of this title by Pub. L. 102-40.

#### AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (b)(8). Pub. L. 108-170 added par. (8).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-170 effective at end of 180-day period beginning on Dec. 6, 2003, see section 302(h) of Pub. L. 108-170, set out as a note under section 7316 of this title.

#### PRESERVATION OF EXISTING COLLECTIVE-BARGAINING ARRANGEMENTS AND PENDING ACTIONS

Section 205 of Pub. L. 102-40 provided that:

“(a) EXISTING COLLECTIVE-BARGAINING ARRANGEMENTS.—Any determination under chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, of a collective bargaining unit within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and any recognition under that chapter of an employee labor organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for employees in a collective bargaining unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs, that is in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [May 7, 1991] shall not be affected by the amendments made by this Act [see Tables for classification] and shall continue in effect in accordance with the terms of such determination or regulation.

“(b) PENDING CASES.—With respect to cases pending on the date of the enactment of this Act [May 7, 1991], or those cases which are brought before the establishment of either an administrative grievance procedure pursuant to section 7463 of title 38, United States Code (as added by the amendments made by this title), or a negotiated grievance procedure established under a collective bargaining agreement, such cases shall proceed in the same manner as they would have if this Act [see Tables for classification] had not been enacted.”

#### § 7422. Collective bargaining

(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this title, the authority of the Secretary to prescribe regulations under section 7421 of this title is subject to the right of Federal employees to engage in collective bargaining with respect to conditions of employment through representatives chosen by them in accordance with chapter 71 of title 5 (relating to labor-management relations).

(b) Such collective bargaining (and any grievance procedures provided under a collective bargaining agreement) in the case of employees described in section 7421(b) of this title may not cover, or have any applicability to, any matter or question concerning or arising out of (1) professional conduct or competence, (2) peer review, or (3) the establishment, determination, or adjustment of employee compensation under this title.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “professional conduct or competence” means any of the following:

- (1) Direct patient care.
- (2) Clinical competence.

(d) An issue of whether a matter or question concerns or arises out of (1) professional conduct or competence, (2) peer review, or (3) the establishment, determination, or adjustment of employee compensation under this title shall be decided by the Secretary and is not itself subject to collective bargaining and may not be reviewed by any other agency.

(e) A petition for judicial review or petition for enforcement under section 7123 of title 5 in any case involving employees described in sec-